

Varsity sports, recreation and physical education

Just where does the \$ go at Tait Mackenzie ?

By ANDY MICHALSKI

How much does York spend on its men's varsity hockey teams? \$100,000, \$50,000 or a mere \$10,000? If you chose the last, you're almost right. According to athletic director Nobby Wirkowski, the football team gets the biggest expenditures of any team at \$10,949 for this year. This includes travelling, paying officials, equipment and clothing. It also includes \$3,200 spent on paying assistant coach salaries.

The hockey team is next at \$8,091 although it doesn't pay out any money for its coach Bill Purcell who happens to be on staff. So actually the hockey team gets the most as far as new expenditures go. Basketball gets \$5,626.

But Wirkowski feels that there's no real way to give accurate figures on just how much Tait MacKenzie splits up between the three main areas of expense: varsity sports, recreation (where anyone can use the gym facilities, intercollegiate sports and the Phys. Ed. (degree) program.

Although he'll be asking for \$9,000 for the hockey Yeomen, Wirkowski says all of the used equipment will go for recreational use and Phys. Ed. teaching.

According to York president David Slater, faculty budgets are supposed to be public knowledge. Yet traditions die hard and the Phys. Ed. department is no different. They refused to allow access to their budget but preferred instead to answer any questions. So an accurate picture of what's going on is impossible to give although a glimpse was provided as to what's happening with Tait MacKenzie's \$300,000 budget.

In the 1970 presidential report on York's Phys. Ed. department, only one or two percent of York's 12,000 students used the gym through the Phys. Ed. program although an estimated 10 percent of York's students used the arena and gyms on a recreational basis.

Last year the arena was used 17 hours per week with 1,400 registrations in all sorts of recreational uses. The pool got 28 hours of use from 700 swimmers and the eight squash courts got 79 hours of use from 1,190 players. That doesn't include any varsity use.

Inter-college sports which are a part of recreation take up a great

deal of the time reserved. As temporary Tait MacKenzie director, Roger Seaman points out (Bryce Taylor is away on sabbatical,) the increase in leisure time — especially with students — has increased the demand for the optional instructional program which covers such sports as archery, fencing and judo.

Despite the charge that varsity teams dominate the prime time of the facilities (from 5:30 to 7 p.m.), Seaman says it's only fair since the recreational sports so overwhelmingly dominate the rest of the reserved time. As he points out, the Phys. Ed. department spends \$54,000 on part-time salaries — the bulk of which goes to inter-college and recreational sports.

As a whole, varsity sports get the biggest share of attention everywhere despite the swing to greater recreational use of the facilities. Yet they also come under the largest amount of scrutiny and vendetta from irate fans.

York's board of governors is no different. Most of the businessmen that sit on the board are more interested in having a sure-fire varsity team that wins games and gives York "a name" than in stressing general use of facilities by average students. The 1970 presidential report complained of the board's ad hoc committees which carried out "more or less continuing investigation of the Department's internal structure — and spawned rumors and anxieties that were felt through the Department's personnel..."

Nobody got more attention than the football coach — Nobby Wirkowski. As most people know, the football Yeomen haven't had a good season since they began and nobody, especially status conscious board members like to be part of a losing team.

Yet Wirkowski, an ex-coach of the Toronto Argonauts owes a great deal to the board — like many others at York — for getting his job. It's no great secret that York's faculty likes to stress academics in everything and football coaching is no exception. Wirkowski doesn't have a degree much to the chagrin of a great number of people and the 1970 report likes to point out the University of Western Ontario's Frank Cosentino, who has "ten

years of experience as a player for the Toronto Argonauts and other professional teams but he is also a candidate for a Phd. degree at the University of Alberta."

But since that report, the Phys. Ed. department has mushroomed with a total of six Phds out of 17 staff members and it's to the department's credit that 14 of the 17 are Canadian. Now that's unusually high at York.

Seaman points out that his regular boss, Bryce Taylor, had no explicit policy to hire Canadians. It was simply a case of hiring the most qualified personnel. Taylor was most fully acquainted with Canadians.

Thus the rumors in January that Cosentino was coming here and Wirkowski was leaving York.

Of 17 faculty members in the department, only seven are women. Although the 1970 report states that if the athletic director is male, then there should also be a female associate athletic director, York has no such thing. Although it's expected that men's varsity sports — being more popular — would dominate over women's sports, the amounts of money spent are interesting:

	MEN	WOMEN
Hockey	\$ 8,981	\$3,000
Football	10,949	-
Basketball	5,626	2,500
Rugger	3,063	-
Gymnastics	1,528	1,300
Soccer	2,251	-
Volleyball	1,528	2,300
Swimming	-	500
field hockey	-	810

Only in the field of volleyball do women receive more money than men although gymnastics runs a close second. But then the men compete in 21 leagues while the women play in 11. In hockey, the difference can mean new skates for the men and none for the women.

But there has been a sudden upsurge in interest by women for athletics. Women's athletic director Marg Lyons credits this to a greater social acceptance of women becoming involved and proving their talents. After being here five years, Lyons says she's noticed a phenomenal increase in both varsity and inter-college women's sports so that "if the students demand a sport and they can prove they have the



Roger Seaman is the interim head of the phys. ed. department.

interest and the members, then we can set it up."

The demand to get a winning combination is now on the women too. Gymnast Sue Buchannan who won the women's title this year and competed in the Olympics is expected to attract high calibre gymnasts to York. In Canada however, there's less chance of the athletic scholarship taking over because if a candidate's academic average goes down, then he or she can't apply again for the \$2,000 grants-in-aid from Ottawa's Fitness in Amateur Sport program.

But just how much can York do for the woman athlete? When it comes to speed swimming, unless she's had previous experience there's little chance of making a winner when the optimum age is around 18. But when

it comes to synchronized swimming, then Lyons says they can use anybody with no previous experience — just as in ice hockey.

Like any of York's departments, Phys. Ed. thinks of itself as being too small. Although a new gym complex has been on the drawing boards for some time, it's unlikely to come about in an age of budget cuts.

Seaman feels that his budgets are realistic and therefore don't need to be cut. We might have been able to agree if we'd seen the budget but we weren't allowed to. For a matter of fact, it took several weeks to arrange an interview where all of Phys. Ed's directors could attend a meeting and that came only after financial vice-president Bruce Parks informed Phys. Ed. that like it or not, the budget should be open.



Athletic director Nobby Wirkowski

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